

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

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S E C R E T ISLAMABAD 4220

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT XD IR OVIP (ROCKEFELLER, N.A.)
SUBJECT: GOV FOCKEFELLER'S TALKS WITH GEN. ZIA

1. FORMER VICE PRESIDENT ROCKEFELLER TOLD ME HIS TRIP TO PAKISTAN AND AFGHANISTAN WAS UNDERTAKEN AT INSTIGATION OF SHAH OF IRAN, WHO HAD URGED THIS GESTURE OF U.S. SUPPORT TO BOTH COUNTRIES. SHAH HAD REITERATED HIS OFT-STATED BELIEF THAT GOVTS IN BOTH COUNTRIES WERE DANGEROUSLY FRAGILE AND THAT USG WAS DOING TOO LITTLE TO SHORE THEM UP. PAK AMB IN WASHINGTON PROMPTLY PICKED UP A CUE FROM ROCKEFELLER AND INVITED HIS PARTY WAS GUESTS OF GEN. ZIA.

2. I HAD CHANCE TO SIT IN ON ABOUT ONE-THIRD OF ZIA'S MEETINGS WITH THE GOV, BUT GOV HAD CHANCE TO GIVE ME HIGHLIGHTS OF ZIA'S STATEMENTS.

3. ZIA'S MOTIVE WAS TO CONVEY SENSE OF PROBLEMS PAKISTAN FACES, AND TO ELICIT SYMPATHY AND SUPPORT OF USG. HE SPENT MUCH TIME IN CRITICISM OF BHUTTO WHO HAD PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR PRESENT ECONOMIC ILLS AND FOR MUCH OF POLITICAL PROBLEMS IN PAKISTAN. HIS

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CRIPPLING AND HARRASSMENT OF PRIVATE SECTOR, PARTICULARLY INDUSTRIES, HAD CAUSED DISASTROUS UNCERTAINTIES THAT SLOWED INVESTMENTS AND RENOVATIONS OF AGEING PLANTS. THEN NATIONALIZATIONS AND FORCED EMPLOYMENT OF BHUTTO'S PARTY SUPPORTERS AS SUPERNUMERARIES FURTHER DAMAGED EFFICIENCY, PARTICULARLY IN EXPORT-ORIENTED TEXTILE INDUSTRY.

4. ZIA SAID HE HAD "PROOF" THAT BHUTTO HAD GONE THROUGH LIBYANS TO SOVS WITH OFFER OF CLOSE COOPERATION LAST JUNE, AND ZIA ASSERTED THIS WAS ONE OF REASONS HE HAD MOVED TO TAKE OVER GOVT JULY 5. (COMMENT: AS I TOLD ROCKEFELLER, WE KNOW BHUTTO HAD RECEIVED OFFERS OF SOVIET COOPERATION DIRECTLY FROM SOV AMB HERE, BUT WE DOUBT (A) THAT BHUTTO WAS SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING A SOVIET OPTION OR (B) THAT THIS WAS PROXIMATE CAUSE OF ZIA'S COUP. END COMMENT)

5. ZIA SAID HE THOUGH ELECTIONS WOULD BE HELD NEXT APRIL. ON BHUTTO TRIAL, HE SAID THAT WHATEVER SUPREME COURT DECIDED ABOUT BHUTTO'S APPEAL, THERE WOULD BE SOME INTERNAL DISTURBANCES AFTER THAT DECISION (COMMENT: DECISION COULD BE IN JULY) BUT ANY TROUBLES WOULD BE CONTAINED AND WOULD BE OVER IN A MONTH. ZIA THUS LEFT AMBIGUOUS HIS INTENTIONS CONCERNING EXECUTIVE CLEMENCY.

6. GOV ROCKEFELLER EMPHASIZED GENUINE AND LONGSTANDING AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP AND DESIRE TO BE HELPFUL TO PAKISTAN, AND U.S. DESIRE FOR STABILITY AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE AREA.

7. ZIA TOUCHED ON NUCLEAR REPROCESSING PLANT ONLY LIGHTLY, COMPLAINING THAT GOP HAD OFFERED TO RENOUNCE THE PLANT IF USG COULD ACHIEVE DISMANTLING OF INDIAN REPROCESSING PLANT AND INDIAN ADHERENCE TO FULL-SCOPE
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SAFEGUARDS. ZIA SAID THAT HE HAD NOT HAD AN ANSWER TO THIS PROPOSAL. (COMMENT: I WAS NOT PRESENT DURING THAT EXCHANGE, SO HAD NO CHANCE TO COMMENT TO GEN ZIA. I TOLD GOV ROCKEFELLER THAT GOP HAD MADE SOME NOISES ABOUT ACCEPTING FULL-SCOPE SAFEGUARDS IF INDIANS DID, BUT HAD NOT OFFERED TO RENOUNCE REPROCESSING PLANT; WE HAD EXPLAINED TO GOP, AND THE SITUATION IN INDIA HAD SHOWN, THAT FULL-SCOPE SAFEGUARDS IN INDIA (IF ACHIEVED AT ALL) WOULD BE RESULT OF LENGTHY PROCESS OF DIALOG WITH INDIA.)

8. AS DEPARTMENT AND OTHERS ALREADY KNOW, GOV'S PARTY GOT AS FAR AS PESHAWAR BUT AFTER COUP IN KABUL CANCELLED PLANS TO DRIVE THERE. ZIA STRONGLY AND PERSONALLY URGED TOV TO RETURN THROUGH ISLAMABAD ON HIS WAY TO INDIA, AND THEY HAD ONE-HOUR TALK WHICH I ATTENDED DURING REFUELLING STOP. ZIA'S PURPOSE WAS TO EXPRESS CONCERN AT EVENTS IN KABUL, AND HE ASSERTED THAT USG HAD NOT DONE ALL IT SHOULD TO GIVE ASSISTANCE, BOTH ECONOMIC AND IN MILITARY TRAINING, TO DAOUD GOVERNMENT.

9. COMMENT: ZIA PROJECTED HIS USUAL IMAGE OF SINCERITY

AND SIMPLICITY. HE OBVIOUSLY ENJOYED THE OPPORTUNITY
TO SPEAK HIS MIND TO AN INFLUENTIAL AND SYMPATHETIC
AMERICAN.
HUMMEL

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